

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC)
Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update
SFWMD Lower West Coast Regional Service Center
2301 McGregor Boulevard, Ft. Myers, FL 33901
First Floor Conference Room
Monday, September 26, 2005
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Governing Board Member:

Alice Carlson

WRAC Members:

Susan Brookman

Beverly Grady

Howard Wegis

Attendees:

Roy Anderson

Rebecca Elliott

Paul Mattausch

Holly Bauer-Windhoust

Ed Hanlon

Joyce Mazourek

Karen Bickford

Irene K. Quincey

Lisa Prieto

Dennis Cafaro

Anura Karunaminim

George Reilly

R Cannyn

Steve Lamb

Jennifer Rogers

Mark Chearnaki

Joan LeBeau

David Schlobohm

Wayne Daltry

Ray March

Michael Taylor

Dianne Davies

Kirk Martin

Ron Zimmerly

Staff:

Bridget Appow

Linda Hoppes

Rick Smith

Jane Bucca

Sally McPherson

Carl Woehlcke

Ananta Nath

John Mulliken

1. Welcome and Introductions - Call to Order.

Chair Alice Carlson called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked officials from Collier County for their work with SFWMD on Lower West Coast issues.

2. Introductions - John Mulliken, Division Director, Planning and Resource Evaluation.

Mr. Mulliken introduced staff from SFWMD and provided information on their function in the Water Supply Department. All attendees stated their name and affiliation.

Chair Carlson said that public comment will be made following each presentation.

3. Regional Water Supply Plan Update Process, by John Mulliken.

Information on the purpose of the presentation included (1) Discuss proposed direction, (2) Update all four water supply plans, and (3) Implement Senate Bill 444 – New role of water supply plans and the revised plan content requirements. The bottom line is to modify plan update process with a completion date for all plans of July 2006. The finalization of plans for FY07 budget cycle is required. The Governor's Office and DEP have given direction to quickly comply with new laws and coordinate water supply plans with growth management laws. There are four water supply plan regions – Kissimmee Basin, Upper East Coast, Lower East Coast and the Lower West Coast.

Information on the impact of the 2005 Legislation, a project list, and the local government plan linkage was provided. As growth is appearing, the future water supply needs will be addressed.

The required plan elements were listed as:

- Updated demand estimates to 2025;
- Resource analysis;
- Issue identification;
- Water source evaluation;
- Water resource development projects; and
- Water supply development projects.

The proposed approach is to resume public workshops and brief the Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) on a monthly basis.

The upcoming meeting scheduled was identified as – Regional Plan Workshops: Sept – December 2005; Draft Project List (FY06-25): January 2006; Document Review Workshops: February – April 2006; and the Governing Board Approval: July 2006.

Question and Answer Session:

Question asked on financing the plans for the next five years. Suggestions and recommendations are welcome from utility companies.

Future projects and the form that was sent out by SFWMD were asked about and Mr. Mulliken said there was a not a lot of response and further meetings will be needed.

The elements of a project were asked about and which ones are “grant eligible”? Mr. Mulliken said that Jane Bucca, Program Manager for Grants, will provide further information, but he gave an overview of what is covered in grant monies.

The limitation on the size of the system was asked about and Mr. Mulliken said there is nothing in the legislation that limits the size.

Resource analysis and resource evaluation assumptions were asked about. No new modeling will be included in the four plans as there is not additional time.

The date of adoption by the Governing Board was discussed and Mr. Mulliken provided information. Consistencies with demand estimates and resource analysis were discussed. There are still a lot of issues to work out in all four planning regions. Projects for urban water supply do not have signification issues to work on, and the Feasibility Study was discussed. Alternative water supplies and financing was discussed. New water sources for preventing of discharges sources were discussed and this matter was asked to be considered in alternative water supply discussion.

Water supplies from groundwater and plugging of wells was discussed. Information on the SFWMD current policy on wells was provided. The District is responsible for plugging wells on public property, but private landowners are responsible for plugging their own wells. This is an important issue to be discussed and brought back to the Governing Board for direction. Enforcement actions were discussed.

Project must be listed in the plan to receive grant money – 80% must be in the plan, and 20% can go to unlisted projects.

A good screening of projects that come into the plan will be done and potential conflicts will be reviewed. Solutions to conflicts will be worked out in the best possible way. Mr. Mulliken provided information on amending the plan and how that would affect other projects. The process needs to be further defined. A stakeholder suggested that a lot of comp plans may be needed to be revised as this is an unknown entity.

Collier County expressed concerns and said they have decided to defer modeling and he asked that the District go ahead with the modeling. There needs to be planning for a 20 – 25 year window.

4. Revised Demand Projections, by Carl Woehlcke, Lead Economist, Water Supply Department.

Mr. Woehlcke presented information on the goal: Accurately represent water use demands in LWC Plan Update evaluations and thus specify public water supply demands to be met through projects identified in the Plan. An update on population and finished and raw water demands was provided.

The new information now incorporated was given. The information that was not changed included the projected areas served by utilities. Information on the *County Population Projections* was given. A table was shown with information on the updated population projections for the Lower West Coast planning areas. The populations are estimated to more than double by 2025.

Information on the updated TAX projections was given for Lee and Collier Counties. Mr. Woehlcke presented information on the utility shares of population growth for Collier, Lee, Hendry, and Glades counties.

The implementation of per capita projection method was explained, along with the finished water demands for the Lower West Coast. The estimate is 5 millions of gallons per day for each county between 2000 and 2025.

The presentation contained information on the guidance used in estimating water utility demands by source; and the utility raw water pumpage by source compared to 2000 for Collier, Lee, Glades and Hendry counties.

Question and Answer Session:

Questions on the Floridan projections as it relates to Lee and Collier Counties.

A stakeholder said that updated numbers from Hendry County are incorrect and Mr. Woehlcke said the Beaver totals were used in the analysis. General discussion on why the numbers could be incorrect and the work needed to be done to reconcile the numbers. Comments made that DCA should be included in discussions.

Request from a stakeholder to have other “users” shown on the chart, including agriculture, etc. Mr. Woehlcke provided information.

The projections are “average daily demands”.

A stakeholder asked questions on the regulatory programs and the guiding principles. Mr. Mulliken provided information.

Question regarding the population estimates for Charlotte County, and the estimated impact of Babcock Ranch population growth on the area. Mr. Woehlcke said this matter will need to be addressed in the future, but at this point the project has not been clarified. Future water demands were discussed.

A stakeholder asked when the demand projections for agricultural will be seen and Mr. Mulliken provided information.

Question on domestic water supply in Lee County and Mr. Woehlcke provided further information. Mr. Mulliken gave additional detailed data.

A stakeholder said asked that if in the Master Plan Update, could the census update that is due this month for Collier County be used as the numbers and then could be “tweaked” to obtain the future figures, and then used in the modeling. Mr. Woehlcke said DCA should be contacted for that reply. Mr. Mulliken provided information and said that plan amendments may have to be done if there is a huge change that affects their plan.

The number of wells permitted by the county and the wells that are not for potable use – how is urban irrigation accounted for in the demand figures. Mr. Mulliken said it was anticipated that the modeling would capture that information as best as possible. He said the wells can have an impact. The private landowners with wells could provide information and that would be helpful. Mr. Woehlcke gave additional information on well permits and modeling to account for the use of those wells.

5. Break – 15 Minutes. (Note: Chair Carlson had to leave the meeting at 11:45 a.m. due to other commitments.)

6. Initial Alternative Water Supply Projects (Fiscal Year 2006), Jane Bucca, Senior Supervising Planner, Water Supply Department.

Ms. Bucca presented information on this item and provided information on Senate Bill 444. \$30 million dollars were provided for funding this year for alternative water supply construction projects. There is an additional \$6 million for funding. That makes a total of \$36 million for this project.

There is a new definition of Alternative Water Supply. An extensive public outreach effort has been accomplished with four workshops being held; nearly 2,000 pieces of mail were sent to potential applicants; and a website was created to explain the law, the program and provide applications.

Updated information was provided on the types of projects, applicants, and what is proposed. The project review process and a proposed schedule was given. At the WRAC meeting on October 6, the recommended projects will be revealed, and then the recommendations will be made to the Governing Board at their October 12th meeting.

Information on brackish water facilities and the reverse osmosis process was presented. There are 30 aquifer storage recovery systems in South Florida. There are a total of 110 reuse system locations.

Question and Answer Session:

The planning period eligibility for a project was questioned. Mr. Mulliken provided information on planning – short term and long term. A five to seven year range is a safe estimate for planning, with the option to amend the plan. Information on the budgetary process used by the SFWMD Governing Board was provided.

7. Future Alternative Water Supply Projects (Fiscal Years 2007-25), Linda Hoppes, LWC Plan Manager, Water Supply Department.

Ms. Hoppes presented information on the water supply key requirements – update regional water supply plans with information on water supply projects that local

governments and water suppliers can develop to meet future needs. The program funding for fiscal year 2006-07 and beyond showed funding as follows:

State Funding: South Florida Water Management share is \$18 million. South Florida WMD Funding is \$18 million. The policy provides state and water management district funds to local governments and water suppliers for the construction of alternative water supply projects. The water management districts may supplement with other district funds to assist with planning, design, feasibility studies and other preliminary development activities. Implementation of the program was explained.

Identification of future projects for 2007 – 2025 was reviewed, including local governments and other water suppliers. The time frame for submittal of the form is October 31, 2005.

Creation of the form will be posted to the website as soon as it is available. Contact Ms. Hoppes if you are not on the District's email/contact list.

Question and Answer Session:

Will the form be similar to the previous questionnaire sent out and the answer was it "yes" it would be similar. Mr. Mulliken provided additional information.

Question on alternative funding was discussed by stakeholder and Ms. Hoppes. Mr. Mulliken provided information on 298 Districts and their eligibility for alternative water supply funding.

Since a table may be used in the planning phase, then in the design phase – should that be broken down on the form? That will be determined soon.

Question on the budgeting timetable for funding of projects was asked. Mr. Mulliken provided information.

The opportunities for new projects being approved between 2007 and 2012 for water supply funding was asked, and Mr. Mulliken responded on how new projects will be included or not included in a comp plan update. A balance will have to be achieved. Stakeholder commented on what could occur in the future for entities that would want to apply for funding.

Mr. Mulliken said staff is not looking to wait for responses on October 31. Staff members are available by phone, email, etc. to speak with any interested party to talk about any issue.

Stakeholder asked if grant funding would be available for land acquisition. Mr. Mulliken said he did not think it was available, but this would be reviewed and let the stakeholder know. Ms. Hoppes will follow-up with the stakeholder on this issue.

Adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

Alice Carlson
Chair
Water Resources Advisory Commission
Lake Okeechobee Committee

Recorded By:

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Staff Business Operations Analyst
Governing Board and Executive Services
SFWMD